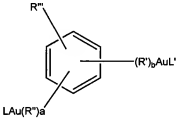
Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~in accordance with claim 1~~ for the treatment of cancer comprising

an effective amount of a compound having two gold(I) atoms each covalently bonded to a carbon atom in a covalent link connecting the two gold(I) atoms, wherein said compound has the formula:



where: L and L′ are ligands; R′ and R″ are substituted or unsubstituted divalent hydrocarbon moieties; a is 0 to 3; b is 0 to 3; R‴ is H, SO_3^-, PO_4^{2-}, CO_2H, OH, $(CH_2)_nCH_3$, $O(CH_2)_nCH_3$, $S(CH_2)_nCH_3$, or $NR''''C(O)(R'''')$ where R‴′ and R‴″ are $(CH_2)_nCH_3$; and n is 0 to 6; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claims 14-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 13, wherein L and L′ are independently selected from the group consisting of PR_3, $P(OR)_3$, CNR, NCR, $PR_n(CH_2OR^{\ddagger})_{3-n}$, $N_4C_6H_{12}$, $[N_4C_6H_{12}\text{-}N\text{-}CH_3]^+$, $PN_3C_6H_{12}$, and $P[N_3C_6H_{12}\text{-}N\text{-}CH_3]^+$, where R is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon moiety and $R^{\ddagger}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, Me, SO_2^-, PO_3^-, alkyl and aryl, and each $R^{\ddagger}$ in any one ligand is the same or different.

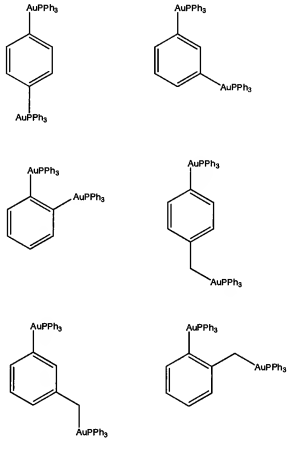
21. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 20, wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkene, alkyne, aryl or aromatic group and each R in any one ligand is the same or different.

22. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 20, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and phenyl groups.

23. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 20, wherein the ligand is PPh_3.

Claims 24-40. (Cancelled).

41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cancer comprising an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of:

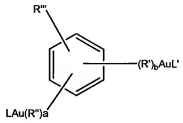


; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

42. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cancer comprising

an effective amount of a compound having two gold(I) atoms each covalently bonded to a carbon atom in a covalent link connecting the two gold(I) atoms, wherein said compound has the formula:



where: L and L′ are ligands; R′ and R″ are each independently selected from the group consisting of methylene, ethylene, propylene, butylene and phenylene groups; a is 0 to 3; b is 0 to 3; R‴ is H, SO_3^-, PO_4^{2-}, CO_2H, OH, $(CH_2)_nCH_3$, $O(CH_2)_nCH_3$, $S(CH_2)_nCH_3$, or $NR''''C(O)(R'''''')$ where R′′′′ and R′′′′′ are $(CH_2)_nCH_3$; and n is 0 to 6; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 42, wherein L and L′ are independently selected from the group consisting of PR_3, $P(OR)_3$, CNR, NCR, $PR_n(CH_2OR^{\ddagger})_{3-n}$, $N_4C_6H_{12}$, $[N_4C_6H_{12}\text{-N-}CH_3]^+$, $PN_3C_6H_{12}$, and $P[N_3C_6H_{12}\text{-N-}CH_3]^+$, where R is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon moiety and $R^{\ddagger}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, Me, SO_2^-, PO_3^-, alkyl and aryl, and each $R^{\ddagger}$ in any one ligand is the same or different.

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 43, wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkene, alkyne, aryl or aromatic group and each R in any one ligand is the same or different.

45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 43, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and phenyl groups.

46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 43, wherein the ligand is PPh_3.